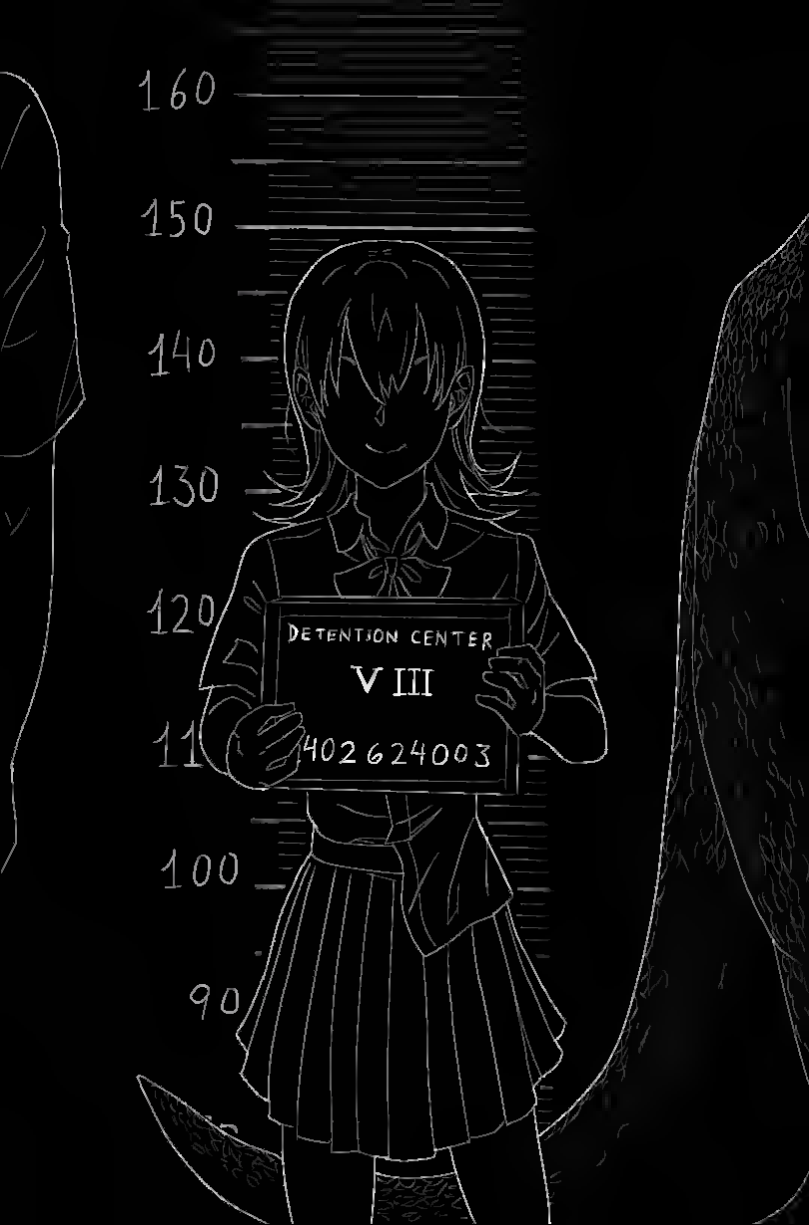
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DETENTION CENTER
VIII
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CLAC
CLAC
CLAC
HAVEN'T FINISHED YOUR REPORT YET?
NO 40 PAGES AND STILL WRITING.
KOVAK.
I MADE SOME RESEARCH.
AS I READ, PROJECT DIRAE WAS CREATED BY A GROUP OF 12 SCIENTISTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF POLLUX, UNOFFICIALLY.

BUT WITH THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, THE NEW PRESIDENT FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND ORDERED TO ARREST EVERYONE INVOLVED.
FROM ALL OF THEM, JUST 5 WERE CAPTURED, THE REST ESCAPED.
YEAH... AND THEY WERE GIVEN LIFE SENTENCES,
BUT CURIOUSLY THEY KILLED THEMSELVES IN PRISON.
I REALLY DOUBT WE CAN FIND THE ONES THAT RAN AWAY ...
...IT'S ALRIGHT, I HAVE TO THINK OF ANOTHER SOLUTION.
KOVAK ...
WHY DO YOU STRESS YOURSELF SO MUCH?
IF YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT PSYCHO-PATHS GETTING KILLED,
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER FOR YOU TO CATCH THEM?
KNOWING YOU, YOU COULD TAKE ON THEM INDIVI-DUALLY
AND BY NOW YOU SHOULD'VE LEARNED YOU CAN'T SAVE BOTH GROUPS.
Y'KNOW, SINCE UNLIKE ME, YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE WAR THREAT

THAT THREAT'S OBVIOUSLY FAKE, PHIL.
YOU CAN'T GUARAN-TEE IT!
BUT WHERE I'M GOING IS THAT, WHILE YOU LOOK FOR A SOLUTION, THEY KEEP ON KILLING
AND THAT MAKES ME THINK ...
PLEASE, DON'T THINK.
COULD IT BE THAT THE LIFE OF THE PSYCHOPATHS IS LESS IMPORTANT FOR YOU THAN THAT OF THE DIRAE MEMBERS?
ARE YOU FINALLY ACCEPTING THEY DESERVE IT?
DON'T BE STUPID, IF IT WERE LIKE THAT I WOULDN'T TAKE ALL THIS TROUBLE ...

BY LETTING THEM EAT THEM YOU'RE SAYING JUST THAT!
I'M TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION!
IF I STOP THEM THEY'LL DIE FROM STARVATION!
...
I WONDER IF WHAT REALLY TROUBLES YOU...
...IS THAT SHE WILL DIE.
...
I GUESS ... I OWE HER.

EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN HINDERING HER, PREVENTING HER FROM EATING MANY TIMES...
SHE'S NEVER TRIED TO KILL ME.
SHE EVEN SAVED ME WHEN HER COMPANIONS HAD ME CORNERED.
AND NOW SHE PROMISES TO USE LESS CRUEL METHODS SO I CAN SLEEP
...

I CAN'T PAY HER BY LETTING HER DIE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO FIND A SOLUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I UNDER-STAND.
MR. WOLTZ
DID YOU FINISH YOUR REPORT?
...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
ARE YOU DONE PRETENDING TO ATTEND PATIENTS?
I DO ATTEND THEM!

I DON'T BUY IT.
I'M SURE YOU HEAR THEM FOR A WHILE AND THEN YOU REFER THEM TO A REAL PSYCHO-LOGIST.
EH !!!
KOVAK, IT'S A QUARTER PAST SEVEN!!
SHIT! ERINA!
I WON'T MAKE IT!
...FINE, I'LL FINISH IT.
YOU GO.
FRUS
THANKS, I OWE YOU ONE!
TAP
TAP

HE THANKED ME!
WHO'S ERINA?
ERINA WOLTZ ...
... HIS SISTER.
DPA

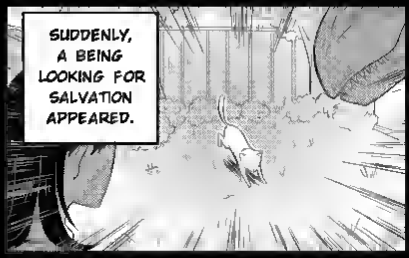
THAT DAY, ERINA WAS SO GLAD FOR HER BROTHER.
HE HAD THE CHANCE TO COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE TO GET THE JOB HE ALWAYS WISHED FOR.
THEIR MOTHER, HOWEVER, DIDN'T WANT TO LET HIM GO.

SHE WAS A WOMAN WITH SO MUCH FEAR...
...WHO ONLY FELT SAFE WITH HER SON.
WITHOUT HIM, FEAR CONSUMMED HER.
WHAT'D IT BE OF HER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER DAUGHTER?

"TAKE THIS PILLS EVERYDAY", SHE TOLD HER.
ERINA DIDN'T GET THE REASON.
HER MOTHER TOLD HER THAT SHE MUST PREVENT HER FROM GETTING SICK AT ANY COST, THAT SHE MUST BE A STRONG AND HEALTHY GIRL SO SHE'LL BE ALWAYS BY HER SIDE.
MOVED BY HER WORDS, SHE FULFILLED HER REQUEST.
AFTER SOME WEEKS, SHE STARTED TO SEE STRANGE THINGS.
BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS LATER THAT SHE SAW ME.

MY NAME'S SQUAMOUS.
MY PLEA-SURE

I EXPLAINED I NEEDED HER HELP. I CAME HERE WITH A VERY SPECIAL MISSION.
THERE ARE LOTS OF BEINGS WHOSE SOULS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY EVIL SPIRITS, DEATH BEING THEIR ONLY SALVATION.
I NEEDED HELP TO FREE THEM, AND SHE WAS THE MOST SUITED TO.


SUDDENLY, A BEING LOOKING FOR SALVATION APPEARED.

WE HAD TO ACT REALLY FAST.

AS I GUESSED, ERINA WAS MORE THAN QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB.

ERINA!!
HER MOTHER, HOWEVER, DIDN'T GET IT.
DESPITE THE EXPLANATION. SHE GROUNDED HER DAUGHTER TO HER ROOM.
THERE WERE SO MANY SOULS TO SAVE!
SUDDENLY, A DISCOVERY STRUCK ME
ERINA ...
?
I GET IT NOW ... WITH THIS MANY SOULS I DIDN'T NOTICE BEFORE.
YOUR MISSION IS MORE SPECIAL ...

FREE
YOUR
MOTHER

WHERE IS MY MOTHER?!
MR. WOLTZ?
I-I DON'T RECO-MMEND YOU TO SEE HER!
I WANT TO SEE HER!

WAAAA

AJ
JUVENILE
DETENTION CENTER

KOVAK, YOU FINALLY CAME!

NO ONE HERE GETS I SAVED MOM!
TAKE ME WITH YOU, PLEASE!
NO... YOU'RE BETTER OFF THERE.

EH ...?
IF YOU WEREN'T BEHIND THE BARS...
I'D KILL YOU MYSELF!
KOVAK?
KOVAK !!
DON'T LEAVE ME!!!

MR. WOLTZ, YOUR SISTER'S CASE IS REALLY COMPLICATED.
IT SEEMS YOUR MOTHER WAS GIVING AN ILLEGAL DRUG TO HER FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME
AS A RESULT, SHE HAD A SERIES OF HALLUCINATIONS THAT TURNED HER VIOLENT.
SHE'S SEVERELY TRAUMATIZED, SO, FOR NOW, SHE'S INCAPABLE OF ACCEPTING WHAT HAPPENED.
I CAN'T TELL HOW LONG WILL HER RECOVERY TAKE, BUT YOU MUST

ERINA, I...
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU
THEY SAY I CAN VISIT YOU EVERY WEEK 'CAUSE YOU'RE BETTER...
...
I GUESS ...I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.
I'M REALLY SORRY... FOR THE THINGS I SAID TO YOU.
...AND FOR LEAVING YOU.
I'D LIKE YOU TO FORGIVE ME.
... MAYBE IT'S TOO SOON YET...

ERINA, I FINALLY GOT AN APARTMENT NEAR HERE!
MY POLICE SALARY CAN'T AFFORD MUCH, BUT IT HAS TWO ROOMS.
SO WHEN YOU GET BETTER-
GUARD!
GUARD!
GUARD!

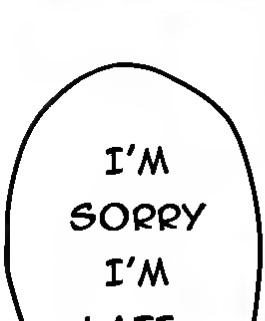
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
HI, NEW GUY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ?!
AH... NOTHING, SORRY!
I WAS TOLD YOU DID GREAT IN YOUR LAST EVALUATION. I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU!

SHUT
UP!!

TOMP!
YOU AND THAT SHITTY SHRINK WON'T BELIEVE ME!!
RAS
RAS
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU CARE FOR ME!
HEY, ERINA!
LEAVE HIM, LEAVE HIM!!
NO, NO, IT'S FINE!
I MADE HER MAD.

POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
THERE'S A THING THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION ...

SHE MADE AN IMAGINARY FRIEND.
A DINO-SAUR.
ACCORDING TO HER DESCRIPTIONS, IT WAS ALMOST AS TALL AS A DOOR...
YOU... ARE PRETTY TALL, RIGHT?
WHAT'S YOUR HEIGHT?



END OF CHAPTER #8